

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 RSC-01

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TAGS: OCON, ACOM, WFC

SUBJECT: BOERMA MEETING -- NOVEMBER 29

1. DESPITE OBJECTIONS BY U.S. REPS (MARTING AND BELL) AT NOVEMBER 13 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FAO DIR GEN BOERMAN, WE UNDERSTAND BOERMA HAS NOW ISSUED INVITATIONS TO NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND MEETING IN ROME ON NOVEMBER 29 FOR CONSULTATIONS ON HOW TO SUPPLY AND FINANCE FOOD GRAIN REQUIREMENTS OF MSA COUNTRIES DURING REMAINDER 1974/75 CROP YEAR. ACCORDING TO MEMO CIRCULATED BY BOERMA PRIOR NOVEMBER 13 MEETING, FOLLOWING EXPECTED BE INVITED: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CHINA, FRANCE, INDIA, JAPAN, USSR, US, EC, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, EGYPT, PAKISTAN, TANZANIA AND THAILAND PLUS INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL, UN EMERGENCY OPERATION, IMF, IBRD AND WFP.

2. BOERMA SEES NOVEMBER 29 MEETING AS FIRST OF SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO BOERMA MEMO
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FOLLOWING AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 29 MEETING EXPECTED:

A. WORLD EXPORT AVAILABILITIES AND IMPORT REQUIRE-

MENTS FOR GRAINS AND RICE IN 1974/75, I.E. UNCOMMITTED SUPPLIES AND UNCOVERED REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF CURRENT SEASON.

B. AVAILABILITY OF AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD AID AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING SPECIAL CREDIT FACILITIES) TO ENABLE MSA COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN ESSENTIAL CEREAL IMPORT NEEDS.

C. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION REQUIRED IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, INCLUDING: (1) TO ENSURE PHYSICAL AVAILABILITY OF CEREALS TO MEET UNCOVERED IMPORT NEEDS ESPECIALLY OF MSA COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES IN WORLD; (2) TO CLARIFY PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING THE NECESSARY FINANCING ESPECIALLY FOR MSA COUNTRIES.

D. FUTURE CONSULTATIONS: ORGANIZATION, LOCATION, FREQUENCY AND PROCEDURES.

3. AT NOVEMBER 13 LUNCHEON MEETING, MARTIN AND BELL OBJECTED TO BOERMA CALLING SUCH MEETING BY ARGUING CENTRAL PROBLEM CONFRONTING MSA COUNTRIES IS FINANCING 1974/75 IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND U.S. QUESTIONED WHETHER AN UNWIELDLY MEETING UNDER FAO AUSPICES WOULD GET AT THIS CENTRAL PROBLEM. U.S. RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM OTHER EXPORTERS, PARTICULARLY EC (RABAT) AND CANADA (WHELEN), WHO APPARENTLY SAW MEETING AS BEST WAY OUT OF UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION CREATED BY BOERMA. AUSTRALIA (SWIFT) TENDED SUPPORT U.S. VIEW AND LATER SUGGESTED MEETING BE IN LONDON IF IT HAD TO BE HELD SINCE MOST COUNTRIES WOULD BE THERE ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL MEETING. BOERMA ADMITTED MERIT TO AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTION BUT PUSHED FOR ROME IN ORDER TO GET FOCUS ON FAO BUT ALSO FOR PERSONAL REASONS SINCE HE EXPECTED DEPART FOLLOWING DAY FOR VISIT TO INDIA AND OTHER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES.

4. DISAGREEMENT EMERGED AT MEETING BETWEEN BELL AND AZIZ, FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, REGARDING SIZE OF UNCOVERED IMPORT REQUIREMENT IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES. BELL PRESENTED USDA ESTIMATES SHOWING IMPORT REQUIREMENT OF ABOUT 10 MILLION TONS WHICH 5 MILLION TONS NOW COVERED BY CASH PURCHASES OR FOOD AID COMMITMENTS LEAVING UNCOVERED IMPORT REQUIREMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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5 MILLION TONS. AZIZ ARGUED UNCOVERED REQUIREMENT IS 7 TO 10 MILLION TONS BUT WAS NEVER CLEAR ABOUT TIME FRAME FOR WHICH HIS DATA APPLIED. PARROTTE FROM INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL PRESENTED ESTIMATES PREPARED BY IWC STAFF. PARROTTE'S ESTIMATES CLOSELY PARALLELED THOSE BY BELL.VOLPE

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